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# THE ORATION AND DECLARATION OF THE FRENCH KING, HENRIE the fourth of that name, and by the grace of God King of Nauarre.

*Vitered out of his owne mouth, to the Lords and Gentlemen of  
his Armie, before the Citie of Paris, the eight  
day of this present moneth of  
August 1590.*



LONDON  
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to be sold by Humfrey Lownes at the  
West dore of Paules.

1590.

# THE ORATION

## AND DECLARATION

### OF THE FRENCH LEGATION

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

ON THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER 1870



BY J. C. CALHOUN, SECRETARY OF THE LEGATION

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of the French king, Henrie the fourth  
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*Vttered out of his owne mouth to the Lords and Gentlemen  
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of this present moneth of August. 1590.*



**M**Y Lords, I do not doubt, but  
the most part of you do well  
remember the precepts and  
solemn othes which my L. the  
late king deceased (my prede-  
cessor) caused me to make in  
the presence of you all, for the  
tranquillitie and peace of this  
Realme, that day wherein  
he was hurt, seeing himselfe  
nere his end. If you be remembred, among many other  
matters, he chiefly charged me with this one principall  
point, that I should maintaine all my subjects in free li-  
bertie to vse their conscience in both religions: that is to  
say, the reformed religion, and the Romish religion, vntil  
that by a generall, or nationall Councel a better resolu-  
tion might be made thereupon. Insomuch as his Maiestie  
saw there was no other meanes to pacifie the troubles  
and dissensions of this Realme, but that if God had gran-  
ted him the grace to haue raigned longer, he would haue  
vsed this readie and singular remedie aforesaid. Thus I  
tell you my Lords, and also I pray you to beleene that I  
haue nothing in so great care as to keepe all my othes and  
vowes, which I haue already done and shall doe hereaf.

ter: and specially this same, for that it is of great importance.

Nowe I am informed that some of the Nobilitie of this armie do spread abroad that they cannot doe mee service, vnlesse I make profession of the Romish Religion: and thereupon they will forsake mine armie. Meaning thereby to trie whether I shoulde be so impudent as to giue ouer and recant that which is dearest vnto me in this worlde, that is to say, my religion and mine othe.

Wherefore (my Lords) at this present I haue caused you to be assembled, to the end I might declare in your presence that I am resolved (and I pray vnto God, rather to take me out of this worlde, then it should be otherwise) not to varie nor change in any wise my religion, neither do any thing contrarie vnto mine othe, before I be instructed by a holy Councell, the which I will heartily yeeld vnto, and vow to follow the same: wishing nothing more then that such men should depart from mine armie, choosing rather to haue one hundred of faithful Frenchmen on my side, then two hundred of such fained friends: because I am sure that God is alwayes with them that be godlie.

Two causes there be (as I beleue) that moue these men to sow this Darnell: the one is the oth which they haue made long since vnto the enemies of this realme: the other is the smal vertue and assurance which do appeare in places of baloe and honoe. Wherefore let not such men be afraid to demand our licence to depart: for I openly declare vnto them that they are not so readie to request it, as I am willing to grant it vnto them. Notwithstanding I am very sorry, that they be no better Frenchmen only for their owne profit, and for no other cause. For although generally al should forsake me (which thing I cannot beleue)

I haue

I haue friends enough at my commandemēt for to maintaine me to their shame in mine anthozitie. And if all those meanes should faile me, yet Gods my sure strength and shield: who hath accompanied me with his holy & myraculous blessings from my birth to this present: whereof all ye are witnesse. For *Dauid* neuer came better into his kingdome of *Israel* without all hope and force of men, nor with moze labour and perill, then I am come into this same my kingdome, in such a sort that I confesse in very deed that God hath myraculously brought me into it, and established me therein. Moreover if all mans help should faile me, for to maintaine me therein, yet I knowe, that the almightie God will neuer fayle me: assuring my selfe that he hath not begun such a myraculous worke for to leaue it vnperfect, and not onely for my sake, but also for his holy name, and for so manie persons that are afflicted in diuers sortes in this mine owne kingdome, who crie for merrie: to whome also I desire to succour: and I doe promise as a king to perforce it as soone as God will giue me leaue.

Let then this companie of euill speakers cease, and let them truely beleene that neyther this Crowne, nor the Empire of all the whole earth were able to make me chaunge the Religion wherein I haue bene brought vpp and instructed from my mothers pappes, and the which I uphold to be true: and also that I acknowledge nothing but the onely word of God to be my guide and to refoyme me to a holy counsell as I haue said heretofore.

All ye, my Lords, doe know, that I am a true and naturall Frenchman: and I am such a one as men need not to doubt of me. For my actions in time past may testifie how I haue vled my selfe in the behauiour of that which

A iii.

I haue

I haue done within these sixtē or seuentē yēeres that  
I haue reigned in my kingdome of Nauarre, being a coun-  
trie vnder mine obedience. It is easie to be iudged what  
I am, though I haue great occasion to feele my selfe offen-  
ded for the wrong done vnto me of the enemies of this  
crowne.

Howeuer, my Lords, I leaue you to thinke how hard it  
is for me, being your king, and leauing you in libertie for  
the exercise of your religion, to forbear, that there should  
be some among you, yea of the baser sort, who would en-  
deuour themselves to rule me according to their vaine  
opinion. For this cause I pray all godmen of this assem-  
blie and others of this realme to be iudges thereupon. And  
forasmuch as none can be perfect, I pray you al my Lords,  
if I haue forgotten anie thing concerning my dutie, to  
pray with me vnto the Lord God continually to conduct  
and assist me hereafter with his holy spirit, for the increa-  
sing of the kingdome of his sonne Iesus Christ, and for the  
entertainment of mine estate, and also for the comfort of  
mine owne subjects.

FINIS.

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